

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



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On Sunday June 8, 2014 a horse at Suffolk Downs became acutely ill and was transported to a veterinary referral hospital for treatment of neurologic disease. The horse was humanely euthanized and nasal swab results were positive for Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) neuropathic strain. The clinical signs and positive test results indicate that this is a confirmed case of Equine Herpes Myelitis (EHM).

Biosecurity restrictions are in place at the racetrack. Horses scheduled to race or train are allowed to enter the racetrack, but will remain on the grounds. Horsemen have been asked to do twice daily temperature checks and observations on all of their animals. Horses with temperatures above 101.5 degrees, or animals exhibiting signs of illness are to be reported immediately to their veterinarian.

Horses stabled in the contact barn are currently excluded from racing. Suffolk management has adjusted the morning training schedule to allow those horses stabled in the contact barn access to the track after the general population has returned to their barns.

Tracing information is currently being gathered to provide information regarding other animals that may have been exposed to the confirmed case during the incubation period.